

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /101 W
-----035826 241439Z /44

R 241011Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8843
INFO USLO PEKING
DIA WASHDC
USCINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4162

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, UM, PEPR
SUBJ: COMMENTS OF PRC MILITARY ATTACHE ON VIETNAM

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AT DATT'S RESIDENCE ON JULY
18, PRC MILITARY ATTACHE YU KANG SAID THE FOLLOWING:

2. THE SOVIETS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT DISPUTE
BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CHINA, AND THE SOVIETS HAD "ESTABLISHED
A BASE" IN VIETNAM. (ASKED TO CLARIFY THIS, KANG REPLIED
HE MEANT THE SOVIETS HAD INFLUENCE IN VIETNAM AND SAID THAT
THEY HAD ESTABLISHED NO PHYSICAL INSTALLATIONS THERE.) THE
MAJORITY OF THE LEADERSHIP OF VIETNAM WAS PRO-SOVIET, ALTHOUGH
THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE VIETNAMESE
LEADERSHIP ON THE PROPER ATTITUDE WITHIN THE VIETNAMESE
LEADERSHIP ON THE PROPER ATTITUDE TO TAKE TOWARD CHINA. KANG
SAID THAT LE DUAN WAS PRO-SOVIET, BUT REFUSED TO CATEGORIZE
THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VIETNAMESE POLITBURO.
KANG ALSO SAID THE VIETNAMESE WERE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR
HEGEMONY THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA.

3. KANG SAID THAT IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT ALL THE
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CHINESE RESIDENTS OF VIETNAM WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE
POINTED OUT THAT MANY HAD VERY CLOSE TIES TO VIETNAM.

4. ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY HOPE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH
VIETNAM, KANG SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO VIETNAM. IF THE VIETNAMESE
ABANDON THEIR HOSTILE POLICY, "WE ARE READY." IF NOT, "WE
CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM EASILY."

5. COMMENT: KANG'S UNABASHEDLY HOSTILE COMMENTS TOWARD VIETNAM ARE IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO CHINESE PROFESSIONS OF BROTHERLY SUPPORT DURING THE WAR. PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERVENTION, MILITARY ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-0435
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780725/aaaaavbp.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0dce676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1901170
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS OF PRC MILITARY ATTACHE ON VIETNAM
TAGS: PEPR, CH, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0dce676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014